

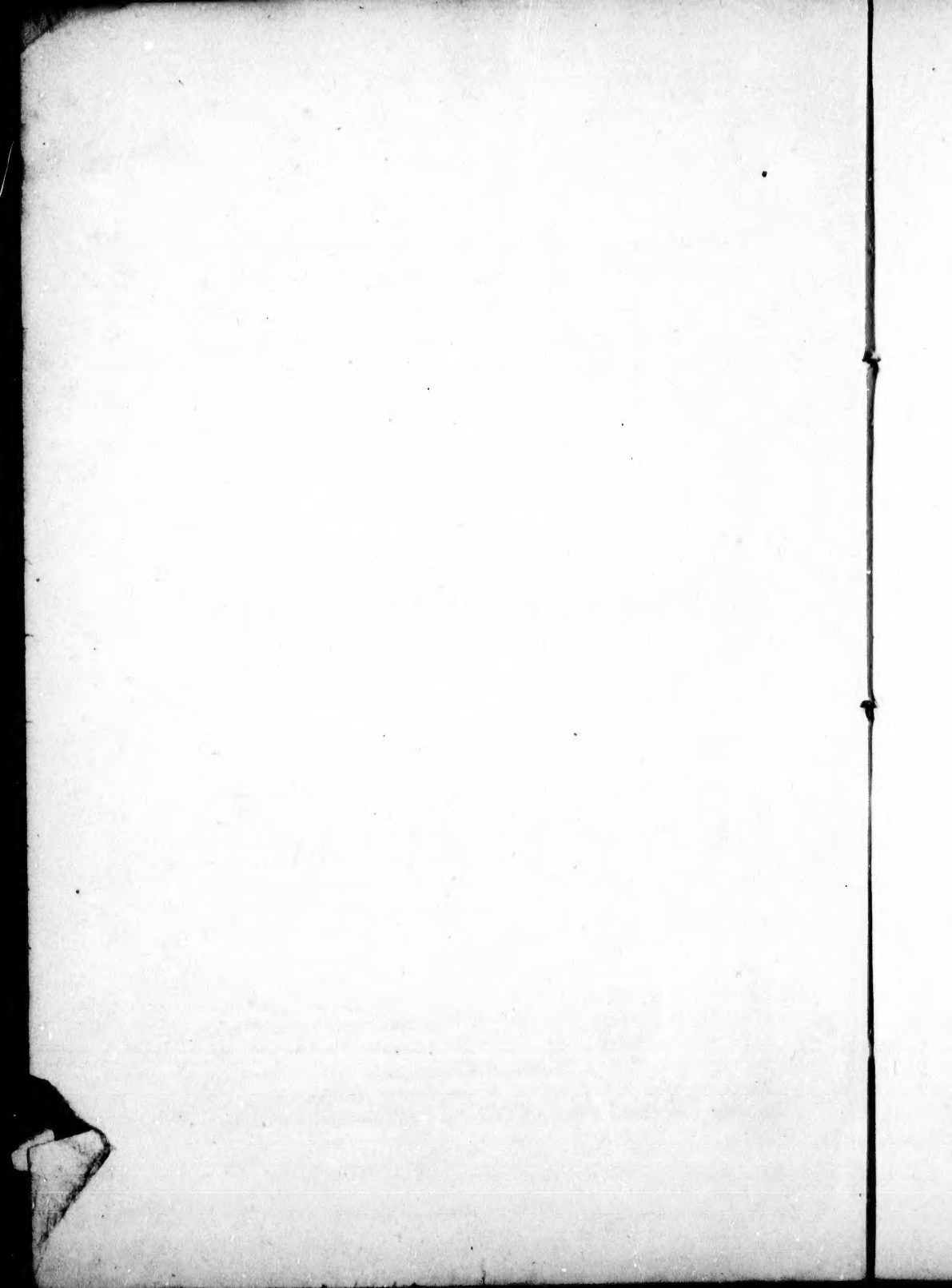
SOME INCIDENTS

RELATED BY

CREDIBLE WITNESSES

IN THE

LIFE OF A PROVINCIAL.



The undersigned has his own reasons for publishing without abridgement or comment the Statements which follow. Those reasons were partially disclosed in a note dated 23rd May, 1855, published in the *Quebec Gazette*, in the following terms :

To the Editor of the Quebec Gazette.

SIR,—People often enquire why I caused to be published in the “*Journal de Québec*” so many certificates and attestations. It is that question which I propose to answer.

In the events which took place in '37 and '38 rumor assigned to me a frightful part. I had waded knee deep in French Canadian blood; I had drunk of it; I had torn out the hearts of slain husbands and sent them to their bereaved widows. What is more, I had entered a church on horse-back, and made my horse drink out of the sacred vessels. All this I heard seriously imputed to me with my own ears. It was invented and circulated, it is true, for electioneering purposes by those who must have known that they were lying; but these calumnies sunk deep in the mind of, at least, the lower classes. Then the Government of Earl Cathcart confirmed that impression, for they inferred, or were taught to believe, that my conduct must have been very atrocious indeed—else had I not been abandoned and injured as I was by the “*Permanent Representative of the Queen*,” as he styled himself.

Last autumn at a public meeting I was reminded of these charges, and whatever might be the opinion of the educated classes, I found that the lower orders looked upon me as a veritable cannibal, and a sacrilegious ultra Protestant, to boot. I confess that I felt alarmed, and doubtless had I by any accident been brought before a jury, I should, however innocent, have been convicted long before I could have entered upon my defence. I was told so, and felt it to be true. Then in those contests in the courts of law which the possession of property entails, I always found it difficult, sometimes impos-

sible, to obtain evidence. Witnesses having a full knowledge of facts became suddenly oblivious, and refused to testify to the truth, while my adversaries were over-supplied. People who are ignorant of the class out of which jurors are taken may be incredulous, but these are not slight evils,—and so long as elections are to be carried as they are, by enormous lying, these evils were and are likely to be aggravated.—When Governors from Europe induce men, as I was induced, to take side against the majority, they expose those men, being colonists, to unnumbered difficulties, beyond the reach of which European Governors and their satellites soon place themselves by leaving the country. Thus, then, my position became not merely painful, but fraught with danger ; and I resolved, if possible, to undeceive my French Canadian countrymen—Such was the motive, such the object.

Quebec, 23rd May, 1855.

The then pressing danger, the immediate cause of a proceeding intended to deprecate French Canadian animosity, has not altogether subsided.—Subsequent events have also had their effects. In 1775, and before that memorable period, a conviction, co-extensive with the then thirteen colonies, had taken possession of the native mind. It is a conviction, forced upon that of the undersigned, that the Colonists, born in Europe, supported by European sympathies and interest, enjoy many advantages which were then—as they now are—denied to the Provincial, born in America.

According to Montesquieu, honor is the principal of monarchy, an axiom attested by Governor Sir Francis Head in one of his admirable state papers. The incidents related below in connexion with their *result* point, however, to a different conclusion—That *result* recorded in the Portrait Gallery by an able contemporaneous political writer, proves at least that there are exceptions to the rule.—The account there given of that *result*, *however incredible, is true!* After he had sacrificed his professional prospects, to fill an office tendered for his acceptance in reward of services previously performed, the undersigned was legislated out of that office. The facts are avowedly common place enough, but the consequence is surely extraordinary.

Remembering the first Continental Congress and the revolution of which it was the germ, English statesmen cannot

be unanimously disposed to promote the projected confederacy of the North American Colonies. The Royal parents are, however, understood or believed to favor the scheme as holding out the prospect of a throne after the manner of that of Brazil for their second son. In this connexion the events herein under related—and more especially the consequences of those events—may not be unworthy of notice. The man who conduces to the comfort, convenience or pleasure of a prince, who caters for his table, or provides other means of gratification, has certainly his use and his merit—but, between such a man and one, who by repressing revolutionary movements, and conducing to the stability of government, ensures the welfare of millions, there is a wide chasm. To reserve all the favors and distinctions for the former will assuredly not predispose any American community in favor of royalty, nor will it tend to the establishment of the desired kingdom. So also, although it should be right, wise and politic to heap wealth, honors, and distinctions upon all those who have been engaged in armed rebellion against their sovereign, it does not necessarily follow that those who, remaining faithful, suppressed that rebellion, should be, because of that suppression, ruined and disgraced!

The prediction contained in Dr. Bouthillier's letter is worthy of note, and what has been done may be repeated. In the event therefore of any future struggle, some use may be made of the knowledge, thus disseminated, of the fate of

A. GUGY.

Quebec, 11th March, 1861.

Translation of the original introduction in the Journal de Quebec, of the 12th of May, 1855, of a communication intended to appease the French Canadians, of which every document hereinunder marked (Translation) formed part.

The following publication is the result of a recent incident. In the course of the last autumn the electors of St. Roch were assembled to deliberate on the choice of a candidate. I was present on horseback, and to please one of my friends made my horse show his paces. At that moment a rough hoarse voice issued from the crowd, angrily enquiring whether that was the horse upon which I had entered the church of

St. Eustache. I might have replied that that church was then garrisoned by armed men who opposed all access with gunpowder and shot. I had several other grounds of defence, but I confess that at that time I was not aware of the importance which I ought to have attached to that question.—I have since been made acquainted with it. I have learned that the part which I took in the insurrections of 1837 and 1838 has been fatal to me. I had believed that the world was not altogether ignorant of my heart, and have been rudely undeceived.

I therefore submit some facts which seem to me to be calculated to produce an impression on my French Canadian countrymen. They now admit that their failure was fortunate. On that single ground, then, I might expect to be pardoned the opposition which conduced to that failure. Let us, however, reflect for a moment. I have been forgotten by the party whose opinions, whose interests and rights I sustained with great warmth and perseverance. Going a step further, the government which I have served so well, the government for which I have often exposed my life, and for which I have shed my blood, has unfeelingly delivered me over to the vengeance of those whose hostility my loyalty and zeal have provoked. I have been thus deprived of all the distinctions to which I had aspired. Younger men occupy every desirable position.

Granting that I entered the church, is it not notorious that I was there struck by a musket ball fired by a PATRIOT. It passed through both my shoulders. At that moment a soldier of the regiment which I had led to the assault, and which I had necessarily preceded, seeing that I was wounded, drove his bayonet into my breast.

This certainly seemed to presage the fate which awaited me in the dissensions of my country. My temperament and my habits probably contributed to that result for I never could stoop or play the courtier. It accordingly followed that so soon as the danger was past, the courtiers, who had never exposed themselves, calumniated me. They thus contrived to deprive me of all the advantages which my services ought to have ensured. Rewards are, however, awarded more generally to suppleness than to merit, and in fine I am nothing, not even a Queen's Counsel.

In taking sides against my French Canadian countrymen I may have done wrong—but have I not been sufficiently punished? Have I not suffered enough? Should they want revenge could they not find perfidious men who led them to the edge of the precipice and there left them? Are there not men who have attained high positions who were bound to defend them and who have conducted them to the gallows? Impelled by the prejudices of my education, I took part, it is true, with the minority, but I never betrayed anybody, and far from benefitting by it, what have I not lost? In the division which followed nothing but reproaches was allotted to me—advantages and profit fell to the share of others—a painful distinction.

I was, it is true, in an exceptional position and clad with almost unlimited authority—Nevertheless I never made a political prisoner, nor abused my authority, nor vexed any individual whatever—I never even entered the room in which the Court Martial was held—I interposed to prevent plundering and I invariably succoured the distressed. Although a Protestant I manifested all due respect for the Roman Catholic Priesthood, and restored to liberty more than 500 French Canadian prisoners.

I could render those services only because I was in the royal ranks—but I could not thus lend my assistance to the unfortunate without incurring the displeasure of many of mine own party. I claim then, that these facts be put to my credit. Debit me with my opinions and parliamentary conduct if you will, but enter my acts and deeds on the credit side of the account. To exclude all doubt I submit facts which ought to have their influence on all those who have any respect for truth. My hopes are not extravagant for all I ask is exemption from abuse; oblivion—no more.

A. GUGY.

Quebec, 12th May, 1855.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM DR. NELSON, SOMETIME MAYOR
OF MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, 26th September, 1854.

MY DEAR COLONEL,—I regret much to understand that certain wicked calumnies that were circulated to your preju-

dice during the eventful times of 1837 and '38 should be still fresh in the minds of some people, and operate to your disadvantage.

I shall ever deem it a sacred duty to exculpate you of cruel conduct while on River Chambly, especially at St. Denis, *where my wife* and family were subjected to much ill-treatment, as well as other parties, and who would have been made miserable, if not rendered totally destitute, but for your *manly, kind, just, nay, truly philanthropic interference*. I have heard of *many other* instances of your benevolent deportment at that memorable period; not the least of which was your refusing to fill the gaols with every individual who was denounced by the *pretended* friends of the Government. Your excellent judgment and natural perspicacity, however, led you at once to form a correct estimate of the motives by which the *real* enemies of the government and society were actuated, and by your judicious and vigorous measures, you saved many persons from utter ruin, and a greater number from extreme distress and misery.

A man who has thus demeaned himself cannot be a bad man; but on the contrary, must be endowed with a good heart and clear head.

Personally, I certainly know nothing at all to your disadvantage; and I can never forget the protection you afforded to my family, when almost every one else had the cowardice of discountenancing them; but you, a high government officer, who, if any, would have been suspected of severity, were kind and obliging. Never shall I forget these services, the spontaneous outpouring of a manly and liberal mind.

You may shew this hastily written epistle to whom you may think proper, for I am not afraid to avow my sentiments when I conceive they are based upon fact and correct principle.

With best wishes, my dear Sir, yours gratefully and faithfully,

(Signed,)

WLD. NELSON.

COLONEL GUGY.

P. S.—I am intimately acquainted with many persons who took an active part in the events of 1837 at St. Eustache, but while I have heard of some execrable conduct on the part

of *certain* very "loyal" men at that place, I have never heard your name coupled with any impropriety. I have understood that you fought manfully and nothing more.

(*Translation*)

EVIDENCE OF MR. L. FRÉCHETTE.

In eighteen hundred and thirty-eight, I was arrested at St. John's and sent as a rebel, under an escort of armed volunteers, to the Montreal gaol. On board the steamer crossing from Laprairie, an English gentleman, who was unknown to me, seeing the state of affliction I was in, asked me what the matter was, and what he could do for me. I told him I was so unfortunate as to be a prisoner charged with high treason, threatened with trial by Court Martial and with banishment. I begged of him to go to Colonel Gury and state this to him. I must say that I had never then seen the Colonel. I had never had anything to do with him and knew him merely by reputation. He had been represented to me as a kind hearted and compassionate man. This was all I knew of him, and without knowing the reason why, I thought he would interest himself in my behalf, although I was a stranger to him. These were the reasons why I applied to him: and I could not do otherwise, my countrymen, and my friends in particular, being on the same side as myself, they could be of no use to me.

The strange gentleman did not forget me, and I was hardly lodged in gaol when Colonel Gury came to me. After making a patient enquiry into my case, he ordered the gaoler to release me. I was thus returned to my family, but what was my despair when I was arrested a second time and sent to Montreal charged with high treason. The armed volunteers, who were keeping guard over me, appeared to take a brutal pleasure in frightening me, and talked in a free and easy way of shooting me. Being again shut up in the Montreal goal, I did not delay in making my situation known to Colonel Gury. He came to the gaol a second time, and soon became satisfied that I was persecuted by personal enemies. My sufferings produced upon him the effect which I expected, and as he was, at the time, entrusted with great power, he caused my prison doors to be opened a second time. On this

occasion he gave me a passport prohibiting all parties whomsoever from arresting me, unless for an offence committed subsequently. My personal liberty is therefore due to two men who were entire strangers to me. I have only seen Colonel Gagy once since, but I have never seen the generous man who spoke to him in my favor.

St. Jean, 14th February, 1855.

(Signed,) LOUIS FRÉCHETTE.

In presence of T. R. JOBSON, and J. E. BURKE.

(*Translation.*)

CERTIFICATE OF DR. ALLARD.

It is with the deepest gratitude that I certify, that since I have had the honor to know Colonel Gagy, I have completely changed the opinion which I had entertained of his political conduct.

I had thought that in 1837, that he would take pleasure in harrassing the Canadians, especially after he had exposed himself to the chances of war. But to my extreme surprise he has acted with the utmost gentleness, and has sought to extend, by all the means in his power, protection to the Canadians. For my own part, I can affirm that without his assistance I should have been imprisoned in 1837. I was incarcerated in 1838, and he exerted himself to procure my enlargement, and I am convinced that (owing to the efforts of some implacable enemies) I should, without the Colonel's help, have been long detained and perhaps tried for treason. In fact, in the adjoining parishes, people with one accord talk of Colonel Gagy as a man who has rendered signal services to the Canadians. I am certain that, but for his interposition, the number of prisoners to the south of the St. Lawrence would, in 1838, have been great. Having further frequently conversed with him in 1838 and 1839, I always remarked that his conversations tended to the amelioration of the condition of the Canadians.

(Signed,) J. B. ALLARD, M.D.

Belœil, 20th October, 1840.

(*Translation.*)

STATEMENT OF LUBIN LEBLANC, ESQ.

In November, 1837, at the period of the breaking out of the rebellion, I lived with Mr. Soupras at St. Mathias. The troops on their way from Chambly to St. Charles passed through that parish. The night was very dark—and an icy rain which poured in torrents, but more particularly the bad state of the roads, compelled the commanding officer to halt there and to billet his soldiers. Mr. Guky accompanied the troops, and with a considerable number of officers and soldiers he entered into Mr. Soupras' house—His first care was the preservation of order, and he begged the commanding officer to take precautions to that effect.

He spared no pains to restrain the soldiery within proper bounds, and caused one who had exceeded them to be punished. In fine, without that gentleman's benevolent protection, we should have had to deplore such scandalous excess as an infuriated soldiery can commit. His honorable conduct and continued care deserved and obtained, at the time, the thanks of the family. On the return of the troops from St. Charles, an officer, who had cause to complain of the villagers, desirous of punishing them, threatened to burn their houses, whereupon some one begged of Mr. Guky to interfere. He did so, at once, and succeeded in saving the village. Having been an eye witness of these facts I can certify them to be true. I must add that on every occasion on which I met Mr. Guky, he seemed to me to devote himself to the noble mission of mediator.

(Signed,)

L. LEBLANC.

Henryville, 10th June, 1845.

Mr. Guky will make such use as he may see fit of the foregoing certificate.

L. L.

(*Translation.*)

AFFIDAVIT OF CLOVIS PATENAUDE.

Clovis Patenaude, of the Parish of St. Constant, farmer, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists, deposeth and saith :

That deponent has a knowledge that Colonel Guky protected a great number of persons, and did much good during

the Rebellion and even afterwards, in the said parish and its vicinity, and among others to this deponent himself.

That being apprehended by the Police and accused of seditious crimes, Deponent was on the point of being imprisoned by a Justice of the Peace, but that Colonel Guky while going his rounds happened to repair to the spot and caused Deponent to be set at liberty.

Furthermore, the Colonel in a moment ascertained the truth amidst the mass of false statements. He saw at a glance through the designs of certain old countrymen, neighbors of Deponent, who had conspired to despoil Deponent of his property by accusing him of high treason and causing him to be committed to goal, and Deponent declares that he cannot sign.

Sworn before me at Montreal,

19th February, 1841.

(Signed,) JOSEPH MASSON, J.P.

(*Translation.*)

AFFIDAVIT OF EUSEBE HEBERT, ESQUIRE.

Province of Canada, }
District of Montreal. }

Eusèbe Hébert, of St. Philippe, Esquire, having been duly sworn, deposeth and saith:

That during last Rebellion which occurred in this Province in 1838, this Deponent has a personal knowledge of the arrival, at St. Philippe, towards the end of November, of Bartholomew Conard Augustus Guky, Esquire—That he then required this Deponent to repair to Napierville, in order to give information touching some 28 persons of St. Philippe, who had been imprisoned as having been concerned in the Rebellion—That on reaching Napierville Deponent saw Mr. Guky, who presided over the Court of inquiry held upon the conduct of the prisoners then in the common gaol. Mr. Guky then said to me is it possible that we are to allow our poor Canadian habitants to be detained in prison—give me the names of those who are innocent and I will enlarge them immediately. That Deponent thereupon gave the names of the whole 28, and that on the ensuing day they were all set at liberty. I know, too, that from that day forward every prisoner who could be recommended was enlarged—In one word

the conduct of Mr. Guky at the time was that of a man of very great humanity, and he sought by all the means in his power to alleviate the sufferings of the French Canadian Habitants.

(Signed,) EUSEBE HEBERT.

Read and sworn before me, this 22nd January, 1845, at Montreal.

(Signed,) HENRY CORSE, J.P.

(Translation.)

DECLARATION OF HUBERT BOURASSA.

I, the undersigned, Hubert Bourassa, heretofore Captain of Militia, dismissed by the Government, residing in the parish of Laprairie, declare that Colonel Guky has rendered me a service in interceding for my son who was accused of having been concerned in the Rebellion. He was much moved by my sorrow and manifested much sympathy for me. It is notorious that this gentleman has rendered all the service in his power to our unfortunate countrymen. I never heard anybody blame Colonel Guky, and had people spoken ill of him I should, in all probability, have heard of it, and would have contradicted them.

(Signed,) HUBERT ^{his} BOURASSA.
mark.

In presence of A. M. DELISLE,
CHARLES SCFULLER.
Laprairie, 21st October, 1840.

(Translation.)

AFFIDAVIT OF (A LOYALIST) FREDERICK SINGER, ESQUIRE.
Province of Canada. }
District of Montreal. }

FREDERICK SINGER, of the Parish of St. Philippe, being sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, doth depose and say :

That at the time of the last rebellion which took place in this province in eighteen hundred and thirty-eight, it is to his personal knowledge that B. C. A. Guky, Esquire, of the city of Montreal, came to the parish of St. Philippe, in the

said district of Montreal, towards the end of November of that year, and requested this deponent to go to Napierville, in order that he might obtain from deponent some information in relation to the parties from the parish of St. Philippe, who had been arrested by one _____, of Laprairie, as having been engaged in the rebellion. They numbered about twenty-eight. That this deponent having gone to Napierville, found Mr. Guky there presiding at the enquiry which was being held in relation to those parties who were at the time incarcerated in the common gaol of the district. Mr. Guky then said to deponent: Is it possible for us to allow all our poor Canadian *habitants* to remain in gaol in this manner? give me the names of those whom you consider not guilty, and I will have them liberated from gaol immediately. That this deponent then handed in the names of the twenty-eight persons from St. Philippe, and they were all set at liberty the next day. It is also to my knowledge that subsequently to this, all those parties who could obtain recommendations to Mr. Guky and who were imprisoned, were also set at liberty. It is to my knowledge also and to that of Lieut. J. Brisset, of St. Edouard, that with the view of setting those at liberty who ought not to suffer, Colonel Guky went to the residence of Colonel Languedoc, * of St. Edouard, and upon information given by the latter, Colonel Guky again enlarged from eighteen to twenty persons from that parish, who were arrested and were to be sent to prison after the investigation. He discharged them all and sent them home. In one word the conduct of Colonel Guky at that time was that of an extraordinarily humane man towards his fellow beings and one who zealously endeavored to lessen the misfortunes of the Canadian *habitants*.

(Signed,) FREDK. SINGER.

Sworn to before me, at Montreal, this 5th July, 1844.

(Signed,) A. RAMBEAU, J. P.

* A Loyalist.

(Translation.)

AFFIDAVIT OF CASIMIR AND CHRYSOSTOME MARTINEAU.

Lower Canada, }
District of Montreal. }

CASIMIR MARTINEAU, passed church-warden and farmer, of the parish of St. Cyprien, and CHRYSOSTOME MARTINEAU, formerly of the same place, being duly sworn, depose and say :

That in November, 1838, Colonel Gury arrived at the village of Napierville, in the capacity of Commissioner on the part of the Government. At that period the gaol contained some hundreds of political prisoners, the greater part of whom had been taken with arms in their hands. Colonel Gury conducted himself in the most humane manner, and enlarged between four and five hundred prisoners whom he returned to their families.

That gentleman is therefore looked upon as a benefactor and protector by the Canadians in those parts.

The said Colonel Gury did so much to cause justice to be done to the Canadians and to improve their condition, *that his own party accused him of being a rebel. We, ourselves, have heard him denounced as such.* Wherefore that gentleman is considered to have been a true benefactor by the Canadians in our neighborhood. And the said Chrysostôme Martineau, for himself, says that he is one of those whom Colonel Gury liberated from gaol.

(Signed,) CASIMIR MARTINEAU.

his
CHRYSOSTOME X MARTINEAU.
mark.

Sworn before me, at Montreal, this 28th January, 1841.

Signed, E. GUY, J. P.

(Translation.)

CERTIFICATE OF JEAN CORMIER.

I, the undersigned, certify that having taken part in the Rebellion which broke out in the district of Montreal, and a warrant having issued for my apprehension, I was sought after that I might be lodged in gaol, Colonel Gury took much

pains to procure and to preserve my liberty. I know that I owe it to him and shall be grateful to him all my days, I had never previously seen him and he knew me not, so that he can have been moved so to act only by a benevolent disposition.

(Signed,) **JEAN CORMIER.**

Contrecoeur, 8th October, 1840.

(*Translation.*)

LETTER FROM THIMOTHEE FRANCHERE, EUSTACHE SOUPRAS,
AND DR. DAVIGNON.

COLONEL GUGY,

SIR,—Having learned that you were accused of having always been the enemy of Canadians, and of having as Commissioner of Police oppressed them, we hasten to intimate to you that such is not our opinion. On the contrary, we are fully convinced that you protected the Canadians and their possessions, especially in 1837. As Commissioner of Police, we, with pleasure, affirm that your conduct has been impartial, and as humane as possible.

(Signed,) **THIMOTHEE FRANCHERE,
EUSTACHE SOUPRAS,
PIERRE DAVIGNON.**

St. Mathias, 3rd October, 1840.

(*Translation.*)

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER OF ANDRE OUMET, OF MONTREAL,
ESQUIRE, ADVOCATE, TO COLONEL GUGY.

Montreal, 26th February, 1841.

MY DEAR COLONEL,—I wish you success* with all frankness. Since you dispense justice in Montreal I have learned to know you. Of you, at least, it may be said that you administer justice. Before you the Canadian has been able to be heard, and when he was in the right, the balance was on his side. I will not forget the praise you gave the Canadians about their conduct towards some Irish and Scotchmen who

* As a Candidate for a seat in the Legislative Assembly.

had ill treated them, and whom you immediately punished. On more than one occasion, I have heard Canadians, on the other side of the river, say, without Mr. Gogy, who set us at liberty, we would have been tried by Court Martial!!!" A man like you is an acquisition ; so much the worse, if your value is not understood. I shall be pleased for my country's sake, if, on your return, I can welcome you as a member of the next assembly, whose talents and eloquence we will be able to say belong to us.

Courage, Colonel, I trust in the electors. May they respond to my hopes.

Believe me your sincere friend,

(Signed,)

ANDRÉ OUMET.

COPY OF A LETTER FROM CAPTAIN COLMAN.

Montreal, 2nd June, 1844.

MY DEAR COLONEL,—Having been so fortunate as to be placed under your command in the late Rural Police by His Excellency Lord Seaton, at a very critical moment, I beg to assure you that I, at all times, felt quite satisfied that the duties of the Department would be efficiently performed from your zeal, energy and talent.

In my two-fold capacity of Stipendiary Magistrate and paymaster, I was constantly travelling through the entire district of Montreal, and had, therefore, better opportunities than any other person in the Force of ascertaining public opinion of you as a Commissioner, and I have no hesitation in saying that you were a great favorite with the officers and men of the Corps, and you were considered very impartial and even kind by the habitants. I can further bear testimony that your instructions to me and the other Magistrates in my part of the country (St. Hyacinthe) were, that while performing my duty with firmness we were not only to protect the people from injustice, but to treat them with every possible indulgence in order to popularize the government, which you are aware was strictly attended to, and produced the desired effect.

I have great pleasure in complying with your request and will always be happy to hear of your welfare.

Believe me, my dear Colonel, faithfully yours,

(Signed,) THOS. COLMAN, Captain unattached.

COL. GUGY, Adjutant General of Militia.

(Translation.)

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER OF DR. BOUTHILLIER, DATED

St. Hyacinthe, 26 July, 1840.

MY DEAR SIR,—I delayed some days writing to you, for reasons which it is almost useless to mention. I assure you that I did not require any suggestion (although yours are always agreeable to me) to make me think of what we owe to Messrs. Colman and Rainsford*. I may tell you with all the frankness possible, and I have said it to several of my friends, that I regret exceedingly to see Captain Colman leaving us. Since his residence at *St. Hyacinthe*, we have lived in security and under the firm conviction that we were in no way exposed to the persecutions of any person. His conduct has been that of a benevolent and judicious man. And from the statements I have heard from influential persons at *St. Denis* and *St. Antoine*, the same may be said of Mr. Rainsford. We do not fail to appreciate the excellent qualities of these gentlemen, and for my part, I would be desirous of having a favorable opportunity to give them proofs of my esteem. But our political acts (if I may so express myself on the present occasion) are looked upon in such a bad light, so badly interpreted by the party in power, that it is better, until we can form part of a good sound government, to have as little as possible to do with the present one. Without doubt, *you have a large share in the good we have to say of Captain Colman and Mr. Rainsford*, the stipendiary magistrates, who have lived among us for nearly two years. Since that time the country has been quiet, and as we expected, the people have not experienced from you, or from the stipendiary magistrates in this part of the country, any of those little persecutions which we might have cause to fear from the indiscreet zeal or party spirit of some individuals. It is also a matter of some difficulty to explain the course followed by the government towards you and some of the magistrates! What does it intend to do? What are we to expect? *It was in fact predicted to you that you would not ascend the latter very high.* You must have believed that prediction; you console your-

* Stipendiaries in the Rural Police (under Colonel Guger) then about to be removed, and to whom the latter had recommended that some proof of the public satisfaction should be offered.

Ladde

self with it, and you do well. You will soon see that the greatest and most inveterate enemies are not those who have met on the battle-field.

Believe me, to be with much sincerity, Sir,
Your very obedient servant and friend,

(Signed,) T. BOUTHILLIER.

(Translation.)

STATEMENT OF THE REVD. MR. AMIOT, CURÉ OF NAPIERVILLE.

Notes upon the impartial conduct of the Honorable Colonel during the enquiry which took place in Napierville, after the insurrection of 1838.

It seems that in several places people have been found to take pleasure in detracting from Colonel Gagy's character, in describing him as a harsh, inhuman and cruel man, the sworn enemy of the French Canadians. Without affecting to censure the acts of others, I offer to give a faithful and succinct account of his conduct at Napierville after the insurrection of 1838.

Shortly after the unfortunate attempt of the rebels at Napierville, a Court of Enquiry was held, of which Colonel Gagy was named President. Upon his invitation I attended its sittings. I was moved thereto by two motives : I desired, firstly, to be a witness of the sort of justice which would be dealt out to the guilty : secondly, I wished to be useful to such of my parishioners as had been misled. During the enquiry, I remarked on the part of Colonel Gagy much humanity, gentleness and justice ;—not a single day passed that twenty or thirty prisoners were not enlarged, and on a particular Saturday the number reached fifty.

During that enquiry Colonel Gagy had to contend continually against certain men, who vaunted the efficacy of the gallows, but the fertility of the Colonel's mind and the firmness of his character enabled him to triumph over every obstacle, and he was invariably actuated by clemency in the decisions which he pronounced. It must be borne in mind that the number of the prisoners, at Napierville, amounted to several hundreds, and that a very few were eventually tried by the Court Martial.

I remember well an occasion upon which Colonel Gagy successfully showed much prudence and firmness. Having solicited from the then Governor, Sir John Colborne, permission to recall many of my parishioners who had fled into the States, I obtained his consent, provided none were admitted to whom the loyal part of the population objected. Colonel Taylor, the officer commanding at Napierville, and a local Justice of the Peace, whom I consulted, agreed that every man whom the Court should refuse to bail would be sent back into the States. I therefore sent an express requiring some thirty or forty individuals to re-enter the province. Colonel Gagy arrived just at that time, and he entered upon an examination which lasted three hours. During that examination the Colonel proved himself to be a just and liberal man, and more especially a humane man towards those unfortunate fathers of families who had not seen their children for four months.

It was on that occasion especially that the Colonel displayed the energy which he is known to possess. Having refuted the arguments of those who insisted on refusing to admit to bail certain persons who had come in, having proved that it was more politic to excite the gratitude of the Canadians than to irritate them by harsh treatment, he concluded by determining that every man whom the Curé had sent for should be admitted to bail. He went so far indeed as to become in his own person surety for one individual in whom he remarked much candor and delicacy. It is due to the Colonel to remark that he never used towards his adversaries one harsh or humiliating word. On the contrary, he was decorous, civil and polite throughout. Hence it can be no matter of surprise that Colonel Gagy was respected and esteemed by all parties.

One fact may serve to show how truly Colonel Gagy was the protector of the Canadians. A volunteer dragoon having been made prisoner by the rebels, his father, himself a dragoon, seeking revenge, repaired to the residence of the man who had taken his son prisoner. This was after the troops had plundered, and the dragoon took away a horse, harness, cart and other effects, and after threatening to set fire to the house, carried away his booty to St. John's. The farmer's wife alarmed by those threats, complained to

Colonel Guky; thereupon the Colonel summoned the dragoons, father and son, to appear before him, and having caused the stolen property to be restored, and reprimanded them, discharged them.

Some months afterwards, this same dragoon, being intoxicated, entered the house of one Remillard, of the parish of Ste. Marguerite of Blairfindie. After having insulted Remillard, the dragoon first fired his pistol at him, luckily missing his aim, then struck him with a sword and left Remillard bleeding. On the ensuing day Remillard laid his complaint before Colonel Guky. The Colonel entertained the complaint and would have punished the dragoon had not the friends of the latter, knowing Remillard's generous disposition, induced him to forgive the dragoon.

These facts show that Colonel Guky proved himself at Napierville to be the father and protector of the Canadians.

(Signed) C. V. L. AMIOT, *Prêtre*.

Napierville, 14th July, 1841.

(*Translation.*)

CERTIFICATE OF THE RÉV. MR. THÉBERGE, CURÉ OF ST. VALENTIN.

I, the undersigned, do certify that the behavior of Colonel Guky at St. Cyprien, after the troubles of 1838, appeared to me as very humane and liberal towards the prisoners. During his residence, the curé of St. Cyprien and myself, on several occasions had business at the gaol with reference to our parishioners, and on all occasions, we could not but acknowledge the kindness of the Colonel towards the prisoners, and we were frequently surprised to see him set them at liberty on the slightest recommendation. Far from hearing any complaint against him on the part of the inhabitants of those neighborhoods, I heard only the most flattering praise, which is saying a great deal in his favor.

After the rebellion, almost all the inhabitants of St. Valentin were imprisoned, but not one underwent a trial; and I attributed this favor only to the facility with which the Colonel enlarged the parties arrested. The pleasure which Colonel Guky then made me feel by so generously setting

my parishioners at liberty, has not subsided. On the present occasion it is as much an act of gratitude as of justice to comply with his request to testify to the facts to which I was a witness.

(Signed,)

CH. THÉBERGE, *Prêtre.*

(*Translation.*)

CERTIFICATE OF REVD. MR. MIGNAULT, CURÉ OF CHAMBLY.

I, the undersigned, priest and curate of Chambly, by these presents, do certify that, during the troubles of 1837 and 38, I several times had business with Mr. Gagy, and that during the whole period I could not but admire his humane way of proceeding both towards myself and towards those who were implicated in the troubles, and whom I recommended to his favor.

(Signed,)

P. M. MIGNAULT, *Prêtre.*

Chambly, 1st December, 1840.

(*Translation.*)

DECLARATION OF THE REVD. MR. MANSEAU, CURÉ OF LONGUEUIL, AND THE REVD. MR. HUDON, CURÉ OF BOUCHERVILLE.

We, the undersigned, owe to the strictest truth to declare that Colonel Gagy, already so well known and recommendable on account of his parliamentary career, has since continued to merit the confidence of the Canadians in general, by the frank and equitable mode in which he has during three years performed the duties of a public office conferred on him.

We, moreover, testify that he has always paid the greatest respect to the Clergy when acting in concert with him, paying proper respect to all the requirements of religion and to the individual rights of every body, and it is to our knowledge that, on one occasion, he drew upon himself the censure of a whole regiment, for having insisted that the government should render justice to a *habitant* to whose property some damage had been done.

(Signed,)

ANT. MANSEAU, *Prêtre.*

H. HUDON, *Prêtre.*

Montreal, 25th November, 1840.

(*Translation.*)

TESTIMONY OF THE REVD. MR. PRIMEAUX, CURÉ OF VARENNES.

The undersigned, in order to satisfy a feeling of justice, is desirous of making it known that Colonel Gagy always acted in the most favorable manner for the inhabitants of his country. And that at the unfortunate period of the last troubles, several of them owed their exemption from imprisonment to him; and others who were imprisoned, owed their liberty to him. I therefore am of opinion that the brave Colonel is worthy of obtaining a seat in the next Parliament of the united Provinces, inasmuch as he unites in his person all the qualities necessary to advance the dearest interests of his Canadian countrymen. This is the conscientious testimony which I can give in favor of the gentleman in question, from the knowledge which I have obtained of his political life and of his secret ideas during the few months which he was my neighbor at Varennes.

(Signed,) C. TH. PRIMEAU, *Prêtre, Curé.*

Varennes, 5th October, 1840.

(*Translation.*)

LETTER FROM THE REVD. MR. CHINIQUEY.*

Beauport, 16th April, 1841.

MY DEAR COLONEL,—I trust you will pardon my not having expressed to you sooner the joy I felt on hearing the news of your promotion to the rank of Adjutant General, when you learn that I have been employed in making my congregation perform their Easter duties, and that I have not had a moment to myself since almost two months. I congratulate you, or rather I congratulate the government for having recompensed in your person, the man to whom his country is so much indebted.

What does you the most honor, and at the same time what gives me the greatest pleasure, is that your promotion is among the small number of those which have satisfied all parties; a proof that the merit of my worthy friend and neighbor is appreciated by every body.

* The father Mathew of Canada.

You will doubtless remember the rude and insulting manner in which the efforts you made two years ago to deprive one of our tavernkeepers of his license, were received. On that occasion it required all your energy and independence to succeed. Well, at this day, the inhabitants of Beauport are resolved to allow not one single house where liquor is sold to remain in their parish.

I will never forget that you were the first to assist me in this work of regeneration, and I shall be for ever thankful to you.

Believe me, your devoted servant,

(Signed,) C. CHINIQUY, *Priest.*

(*Translation.*)

CERTIFICATE OF LT. COLONELS TACHÉ, CASGRAIN AND MAJOR DIONNE.

We, the undersigned, certify that in the counties of Kamouraska and Rimouski, Colonel Gury worthily acquitted himself of his duty as Adjutant General of Militia. On all occasions he has evinced a disposition to be just and impartial towards all Her Majesty's subjects of every origin. We have reason to believe that if any injustice has been committed in the nomination of officers, it is owing to the recommendations of the Lieutenant Colonels commanding battalions in the different counties in the province, but no complaint of that nature has yet been heard in the county of Rimouski, or in relation to the first battalion of Kamouraska, nor do we believe in the existence of any cause of complaint.

(Signed,) J. B. TACHE, Lt. Col. 173, Kamouraska.

C. E. CASGRAIN, Lieut. Col.

A. DIONNE, Major.

Kamouraska, 16 May, 1846.

(*Translation.*)

DECLARATION OF COLONEL GUILLET.

I, the undersigned, declare that I have personally known Colonel Gury for thirty years, during which I have had official relations with him. I have never known any part of

his conduct in connection with the post of Adjutant General of Militia, which was prejudicial to the French Canadians, and he has appeared to me to discharge his duties with impartiality.

(Signed,)

LOUIS GUILLET, Lieut. Col.

26 May, 1846.

(Translation.)

DOCUMENTS GIVEN BY COLONELS JOLLIETTE, DIONNE AND BRUNEAU.

The undersigned, who have known Colonel Gugu, Adjutant General of Militia, a native of Canada, by reputation and personally for about thirty years, and have had with him official relations—have enquired into his conduct, especially since the *Journal de Quebec*, the *Minerve* and the *Pilot* have published complaints against him. All those complaints appear to the undersigned to be unfounded. The undersigned are perfectly convinced that he has conducted himself well, and they cannot understand either why the Canadians of French extraction should entertain any prejudices against him—nor can they understand that he who is allied to them by marriage, who has at a critical period rendered them signal services and who has always been on friendly terms with them, should entertain prejudice against him. Now desirous of recording our sense of his impartiality toward the French Canadians under all circumstances which have come to our knowledge, we have given him this document to be used as he may see fit.

(Signed,) BART. JOLLIETTE, Lt. Col. Com. 2 B. C. B.
JOS. DIONNE, Lieut. Col. Com. 2 B. N.
FRS BRUNEAU, Lieut. Col. Com. 4 B. C. C:

AFFIDAVIT OF CHARLES EDWARD SCHILLER, ESQUIRE.

CHARLES EDWARD SCHILLER, of the city of Montreal, Esquire, Deputy Clerk of the Peace and Deputy Clerk of the Crown, being duly sworn doth depose and say:—

That deponent has known Colonel Gugu for twenty-two years.

That during part of that time, namely, for about five years, that gentleman acted in the capacity of Superintendent of Police

and Chairman of the Quarter of Sessions, and that, while engaged in those capacities deponent was from the nature of his duties, in daily close contact with Colonel Gugsy, sometimes as much as twelve and thirteen hours of the day without intermission.

That Colonel Gugsy was in constant attendance in the discharge of the duties of his office of Superintendent of Police, from a much earlier hour in the morning than was usual, and despatching all the business that presented itself, in no case left arrears of business for the following days.

That he gratuitously discharged the duties of Chairman of the Quarter Sessions, at a time when no other officer or person connected with the commission of the peace would or could perform them, and was indefatigable therein, as he had been in the other above mentioned capacity. That constantly associated with him as deponent was for years, deponent necessarily had the best opportunity for acquiring a knowledge of that gentleman's character, and having been the subject of more or less newspaper abuse, Colonel Gugsy's conduct became a subject of particular attention to deponent.

That deponent thus can confidently swear, and does swear, that Colonel Gugsy, throughout, behaved in a just, upright, and honorable manner, that no political or religious bias could ever be detected in any of his actions, that he was influenced neither by race or color, that he showed no favor or partiality to any body, and that though energetic and fearless in deciding upon every case as it presented itself, his judgments and conduct gave great general satisfaction. That his mode of pronouncing his judgments was so admirable that crowds were daily attracted to the office for the purpose of hearing and receiving instruction from him.

That at that period, a spirit of license and disorder was very perceptible, and that he repressed it so long as he was in office, in a most effectual way; that subsequently, this spirit broke out into open insurrection as it were, and that commotions and riots of a most dangerous kind frequently occurred, threatening life and property.

That upon most of those occasions the police, as well also as the military, were used in vain for the purpose of restoring order, that it was restored on several occasions, by the influence of Colonel Gugsy's personal exertions, and the respect

entertained for his name and character. That hundreds in the city and district of Montreal can no doubt be found who would be ready to testify to the excellence of his character, and that certainly no man could have combined more energy and humanity, than he did during the disastrous period of the insurrections of eighteen hundred and thirty-seven and eighteen hundred and thirty-eight.

That to prove by one example the nature and extent of Colonel Guky's influence, and the respect in which he was generally held, deponent was present upon one occasion when an infuriated mob, bent upon mischief, were met by Colonel Guky in Notre Dame street in Montreal. That he contrived to address them and to induce them to listen when no other man in the community could or would have been permitted to interfere with impunity: that eventually, however, after an address of an hour or more, Colonel Guky pacified the crowd and induced it to disperse. That at that period violence prevailed so extensively that hundreds of persons were assaulted, maimed and wounded, but that such was the respect in which Colonel Guky was held by all parties, that he ventured alone into any and every part of the city without being molested or injured.

That at the time this surprising circumstance led to some remark relative to the carrying of weapons for self-defence, and that deponent assured himself by inspection that Colonel Guky had on his person no weapon whatever.

Finally deponent swears, that the course pursued by Colonel Guky while in office as Police Magistrate was so excellent as to have produced permanent effects still felt in the amended conduct of many members of the community, and further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,)

C. E. SCHILLER.

Sworn before me, at Montreal, this fourth day of June, 1858.

(Signed,)

CHARLES MONDELET, J. S. C.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM LIEUTENANT GENERAL LORD SEATON, G. C. B., TO COLONEL GUKY.

LYNEHAM, Yealmpton, Devon, February 27, 1841.

DEAR SIR,—I have to offer my apologies for the delay which has taken place in acknowledging the receipt of your communication of the 11th May.

I think, however, that your public services, while I administered the Government of Lower Canada, demand from me an expression of my opinion of your claims, and that even at this late period a letter from me will not be unacceptable to you, although your prospects are not likely to be improved by my recommendation or influence.

I shall now advert to the circumstances which first brought your services under my notice, and which led to your being employed under my authority in consequence of my acquaintance with your zeal and exertions, and my desire to place you in a situation where the public might derive advantage from your ability, knowledge of the country, and your active habits.

On my arrival at Montreal in 1837, the first subject I pressed on the consideration of the Attorney General was the necessity of selecting an active magistrate to superintend the police arrangements in Montreal, and to be made responsible for obtaining correct information as to the state of affairs in the district and in the province generally. You were immediately fixed on by him as a fit person for that important appointment, and promised, I believe, £400 per annum conditionally. Lord Gosford on hearing of your being employed objected to your appointment, and was so irritated at the nomination which the Attorney General had made and wrote to him in such harsh terms, that the affair was nearly leading to a serious misunderstanding between them.

On that occasion I stated to the Attorney General that although it would not have been proper on my part to have proposed a person for employment under the local government so objectionable to him, I should have no hesitation in attaching you to the Military Staff, since your appointment had not originated with me, and a promise had been made to you by the Attorney General. You accompanied Colonel Wetherall to the Richelieu, then the Head Quarters of revolt, and afterwards you were found useful in the march to the *Rivière du Chêne*; and your zeal and activity induced those officers to represent to me in the strongest terms the assistance they had received from you.

After my return to Montreal in 1837, my time was entirely occupied by the proceedings in Upper Canada, the menaced incursions on the frontier of Lower Canada and the forma-

tion of a Special Council and the Ordinances previously to the arrival of Lord Durham, that I did not attend to the re-organization of the Militia, and I decided on deferring all appointments which were not immediately necessary till the arrival of Lord Durham. But *at that time* it certainly was my intention, had I continued at the Head of the government, to have nominated you for the appointment of Adjutant General of the Militia. I considered that you had strong claims. You had from the first preparation for revolt taken a decided and active part, had received a severe wound, and had served in the Militia in the last American War,* Some weeks after Lord Durham had assumed the Government, Colonel Cowper acquainted me that any officer that I might name would be appointed Adjutant-General. In consequence of this intimation I recommended you and stated that it had been my intention to employ you in that capacity.

The Attorney General, Colonel Wetherall and Colonel Gore, are, as well as myself, fully aware of your claims, your ability and activity, and I am persuaded that they will not be forgotten by the government.

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed,) SEATON.

LETTER † FROM COL. ROWAN, MILITARY SECRETARY TO SIR
JOHN COLBORNE, TO COL. COWPER, MILITARY SECRETARY
TO LORD DURHAM.

[Copy]

MILITARY SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

Quebec, 30th June, 1838.

SIR,—I have the honor by direction of the Commander of the Forces, to transmit to you for the favorable consideration of the Governor General the accompanying letter from Lieut. Colonel Gagy and the copy of a communication which was transmitted to him a few weeks previously to the arrival of the Earl of Durham.

From this document it will be perceived that Sir John Colborne, with reference to the services of Lieut. Colonel

* A mistake, it was in the Regular Forces.

† Which remained unnoticed and was followed by no result.

Gugy at the time Lord Gosford authorized the Attorney General to avail himself of his assistance at Montreal, and to his subsequent employment in the Quarter Master General's Department, was of opinion that his qualifications and claims as an officer of the Militia of Lower Canada, entitled him to promotion on the staff on the retirement of the officers now at the Head of the Militia Staff of the Adjutant General's Department of Lower Canada.

(Signed,) WM. ROWAN.

TO COLONEL COWPER, K. H., &c., &c., &c.

LETTER FROM COLONEL WETHERALL, C. B., ADJUTANT GENERAL,
TO COLONEL GUGY

Montreal, 29th December, 1837.

MY DEAR SIR,—It not only affords me the greatest pleasure to record my opinion of your services whilst attached to the force under my command during the operations against St. Charles in November last, but in so doing I only acquit myself of a duty I owe to your merits.

In my despatch to H. E., the Lieutenant General Commanding, I deemed it necessary to mention how much I was indebted to you for your valuable aid, and I subsequently stated the same personally.

I also wrote to the Attorney General, by whose advice you were attached to the Force, stating more fully my sentiments, and so far as I was competent to do so, recommended your being further employed. I have no copy of the letter, but the substance was: That from your zeal, unwearied activity, peculiar tact in eliciting intelligence—your hardy courage and promptitude in execution—you were the best Partisan Soldier I ever met with, and that with a select troop of Mounted Police you would do more to secure the peace of Lower Canada than any other measure that could be devised, for that no rebel or treasonable agitator could escape your vigilance and decision.

Subsequent events have made me better acquainted with your character and have strengthened the opinion I had before deliberately formed and which I shall always be happy to avouch.

I was sorry to hear from Dr. Farnden yesterday that your wound was not in so wholesome a condition as he wished. You must be patient, confinement is irksome to one of your active habits, but be patient.

Believe me to be always, most truly yours,

(Signed) G. A. WETHERALL.

MAJOR GUGY, Provl. Assist. Q. Master General,

I hoped before now to see your promised rank announced.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM COLONEL THE HONBLE. CHARLES
GORE, C. B., QUARTER MASTER GENERAL, TO
COLONEL GUGY.

MY DEAR SIR,—From your having served under my orders in the outbreaks of 1837 and 1838, you certainly have a right to expect that I should speak of your conduct, and I am happy in being able to say that during the period you served with me, your conduct was highly gentlemanly, gallant and most zealous. On your being attached to me on a particular service, finding you were also equal to military duties, I requested Lord Seaton to attach you to my Department as a Provincial Assistant Quarter Master General, which His Excellency very willingly consented to, and you performed the duties to my entire satisfaction and particularly at the attack on St. Eustache, where you were severely wounded while endeavouring to find out a practicable entry to the Church which was then stoutly defended.

After your recovery you were attached to the counties on the Richelieu and also to St. Hyacinthe, and employed in disarming the Habitants in conjunction with Capt. Crompton of the 66th Regiment, and other military officers. You were also directed to exert yourself in quieting these sections of the country, and you addressed the Habitants at St. Hyacinthe and other places at the assemblies called by the priests in their parishes, with good effect. Altogether I consider your services in 1837 and 1838 as highly meritorious and I shall be happy if any testimonial from me can be of service to you.

I am, my dear Sir, yours faithfully,

(Signed,) CHARLES GORE.

P. S. I should have mentioned that although you reported yourself fit for duty after your wound, it was still open, and you proceeded on your duty to the Richelieu, still suffering from its effects.

(Signed,) C. GORE.

FROM CAPTAIN BROWNRIGG, ON THE STAFF OF LORD METCALFE.

Steamship *Britannia*, off Halifax, 3rd December, 1845.

MY DEAR GUGY,—I have mentioned to Lord Metcalfe the substance of your recent conversation with me as well as that of part of your note of the 20th ultimo, and I am desired by him to assure you of his *entire approval* of the zeal and ability which you have evinced in the conduct of the office of Adjutant General of the Militia of Lower Canada during his administration of the government.

Lord Metcalfe desires me to add that he is very happy to have this opportunity of expressing his sense of your efficiency as a public officer and of your loyalty and devotion as a British subject.

I remain, my dear Gagy, your most faithfully,
G. STUDHOLME BROWNRIGG,
Captain Grenadier Guards.

From the Quebec Mercury, 4th January, 1855.

SIR,—The following extracts from a private letter, written by a member of the Canadian Parliament* relative to one who for a number of years occupied no obscure position in the public mind, struck me as containing so much of truth and justice, that I obtained from him the liberty of its publication :

"Yesterday I encountered my old friend GUGY ; glad am I to say he was looking as fresh and as vigorous, and possessing spirits as buoyant as in days of yore, when he stood forth

* W. Powell, Esquire, M. P. for Carleton. In a note dated 2nd March, 1861, authorizing the use of his name, this gentleman, after the lapse of twelve years, expresses himself as follows:—"Would that the episode had been related in a manner more worthy of the coolness, the intrepidity and the judgment exhibited—which were the instruments used by Providence to arrest what, in its immediate effects and its ultimate consequences, must otherwise have been a very terrible calamity."

the prominent representative of the British or Anglo-Saxon interests in the Parliaments of Lower Canada. Time has dealt gently with him, and in his port and mien are all the constitutional evidences of a conscience which is no accuser, of a mind serene and undisturbed in the midst of difficulties. Few men are there who have occupied a more prominent position in the public eye of this province of Canada, few who have been more unjustly dealt with, few who have received so little credit for the good they have accomplished.

I trust that the historian of the future will, at least, do more justice to Colonel Guty than has the journalist of the present. Less he cannot do. I speak not of the past, when for years at the sacrifice of promotion—at the sacrifice of personal interest and of personal ambition,—he stood forth in Lower Canada as the champion of a minority, and battled with a powerful majority; and this with an energy, an ability, and capacity seldom equalled in our Colonial Legislature; I prefer to speak of events much more fresh in your memory and mine. I speak of events of which I am better fitted to be the faithful recorder, from the fact that of them I was no indifferent eye witness, and to a certain extent no uninterested sharer.

There is a dark spot in the page of Canadian history; the angry passions of men were aroused by an act* which was by them deemed to extend, not only the sanction of the law to treason, rebellion and murder, but worse still—to reward them. The spirit of those who had lived obedient to law all their lives rose in passionate revolt against an enactment to their minds subversive of every principle of religion, morality and law. The flames of the House in which the statute was passed, with all the most valuable records of the country, fearfully attested the state of men's minds. It was at such a moment, when energy and determination were most required, that the energies of those whose duty it was to quell the storm seemed thoroughly paralyzed. There was one man, at least, who proved an exception to the prevailing cowardice. That man was Colonel Guty. Dark as is the memory of those days, they would have been darker still, but for him.

* The Royal Assent given by Lord Elgin to the Act for making compensation to *all* persons who had suffered loss during the two Rebellions.

Not only did he throughout those trying scenes, by his influence—by his example—by his unwearying exertion, restrain the passions of the enraged multitude, but on one particular occasion he stayed the tide of riot, of bloodshed, and what might have terminated in a rebellion worse than that which had been so lately rewarded.*

Well do I remember the second night after the Parliament House was burnt, when the tidings spread like wild-fire through the City that the Government had armed their supporters in the suburbs, and that even at the moment they were assembled at Bonsecours Market. A spirit was evoked in the breast of every opponent of such a rash and one-sided act as the arming of one part of the population against the other, that boded fearful results, had the flame once burst its bounds. Arms were in the hands of every man and boy who could bear them, and a stern determination in the minds of all to meet in deadly hostility. The military were drawn up across Notre Dame street, near Jacques Cartier Market, cutting off communication by that street. It was at this time when all were resolved to force their way through the armed troops to reach the Bonsecours Market, when Gugsy appeared amongst them—and from the paling of the wall upon which I was standing by his side, addressed the assembled multitude, and by his commanding eloquence, his boldness, his energy and strong common sense, succeeded in allaying the popular excitement, and inducing all to disperse in quiet to their homes. Had he not been the instrument in the hands of that power which rules over all, he alone knows what might have been the consequence of the shedding of that blood which must have flowed on that night.

Up to the present time, I have never, amid all the obloquy which has been heaped upon his name, seen one word of tribute in justice to conduct which was as honorable to the man, as invaluable to our common country.

Such is the testimony of an eye-witness. Under a lamp elevated about ten feet, above an armed and infuriated mob, in the full glare of the light, hearing the imprecations of the

* Mr. Roche, of the Crown Lands Department, another eye witness, who has authorized the use of his name, is of the same opinion, and no one can overrate the consequences of the massacre by the troops of 400 or 500 men of the British population.

frantic multitude around him, varied by the occasional flash of fire-arms and the whistling of a ball, Colonel Gagy was a mark which no man could miss. He could at any moment have been killed, even with a brick bat, and as every man has his friends and his enemies, he must have felt that his time was at hand. He knew that within 150 yards were two guns charged with grape—and upward of 200 soldiers loaded and capped, and he must have heard the officer in command press on the troops the *necessity* of firing with effect. He must have felt that any half dozen imprudent or drunken fellows might have brought all that fire upon him. Yet, for two long hours and more, despite continual interruption, he never faltered. Avoiding all irritating topics—gently insinuating a respect for order—appealing to the hearts of his audience—drawing affecting pictures of desolated hearths, widowed mothers, and helpless orphans,—soothing this one, cracking a joke with another, then provoking the laugh which indicates the calming down of irritation; he eventually induced the assembled thousands peaceably to disperse. He performed the same part on several evenings, always at more or less risk, and it is undeniable that it was owing to his efforts that no blood was shed.

On the night above referred to, considering the proximity, number, and disposition of the soldiery, with the dense mass of closely packed thousands in the street, no one can affect to rate the killed and wounded, had the troops fired, otherwise than by hundreds. No credit was ever given him for these services, but the *Pictorial Times* contains engravings of scenes far less striking and momentous. Eminence has been achieved by more fortunate actors on occasions of less peril as well as less interesting to humanity, than the position at that period assumed by the gallant Colonel. Who has not heard of the heroic deeds of Col. Gagy at St. Eustache and elsewhere? The deeds of some men, however, whose lives are one continued scene of active courage, seem to excite less admiration or wonder than a single, and perhaps accidental act of heroism of an ordinary or obscure individual; whereas, any act at which the most trifling exception could be taken, is frequently distorted and magnified, and vigorously retailed by the centilingual monster of scandal. Such has too often been the case of Colonel Gagy.

Yours &c.,

* * *

From the Quebec Chronicle, 5th April, 1855.

We received from a disinterested party, the following letter, and can vouch for the facts therein alluded to.

I perfectly coincide with the opinions of the writer of an article on the police force, in the Quebec Chronicle of the 17th inst. The circumstance therein alluded to must be that which occurred here during the election in 1841. An immense crowd of "canallers" as they were then termed, came into the town from Lachine, armed and prepared for anything. It was I* who pointed out to the presiding magistrate, (Colonel Gagy,) the ring-leader of this formidable mob—he was a tall and powerful fellow. The Colonel acted promptly on the information, and quietly riding alone into the midst of this crowd, armed as they were with sticks and stones, seized this man by the collar, surrounded as he was by his own people, and hauled him out a prisoner—much to the surprise of us all, and not less so of the fellow himself, who seemed to be perfectly astonished. It was a bold and dangerous act, not only requiring nerve and tact to execute it, but also physical strength and a firm seat on horse-back, all which qualities Col. Gagy certainly exhibited on that occasion—I believe that Colonel Gagy's conduct during the election was the means of saving life, for the mob was of no ordinary character.

* Benaiah Gibb, of Montreal, Esquire.—The *Canallers*, Irish "navvies," employed in digging the Lachine Canal, estimated at between three or four thousand men, had marched into town in a kind of military array. They were understood to have resolved to control the election then in progress, and to live at free quarters if not to fire and sack the town. These results were expected and might well have happened, but the capture of their general awed them, and their dispersion without bloodshed followed. By way of rewarding the captor for his successful exertion he was in the next ensuing Quarter Sessions indicted for false imprisonment! But the Petit Jury, though charged to convict, disagreed and were discharged. At the following Session, another Justice presided, and as he charged the other way, the second Jury, without leaving the box, acquitted the prisoner. The latter was thus twice tried and twice defended by himself at his own expense. *NOTA BENE*—The Government had been petitioned, and refused, to file a *nolle prosequi*.

But the two Candidates whose election the *Canallers* had assembled to defeat, became members of the Legislative Assembly, and being members they concurred in the enactment of the Statute which deprived of his office and of bread the Magistrate to whose exertions in repressing the "Canallers" they owed their election!

An act of that kind in England would unquestionably have been noticed and rewarded by some mark of Royal favor. If I am rightly informed, the founder of a titled family was ennobled for an instance of such presence of mind and devotion, but of course, mere colonists can expect nothing but oblivion. Indeed it is so much the fashion to sneer at Colonial zeal and merit, that the only wonder is that there are not more who agree in opinion with Mr. Holton.—(Vide his speech on the Militia Bill.)

Quebec, 26th March, 1855.

5th January, 1856.

To the Editor of the Morning Chronicle.

SIR,—In your leader of this morning, alluding to the mistrust, by the Government, of Mr. Maguire, in relation to the St. Sylvester murder,* and to the necessity of employing high handed measures to put down the insubordination and contempt of the Law which have been manifested on this occasion, you saw fit to mention the name of Colonel Gagy as a proper person to have been employed in such an emergency.

After the manner in which the gallant Colonel has been treated by the Government, I do not know whether he would have accepted such an appointment; but, whether he would or not, there is no doubt one more competent could not be found. His presence of mind in cases of danger is strikingly perceptible in his conduct on the occasion adverted to in the accompanying communication, which I send you under the supposition that you will not deem it unworthy of a reproduction in your valuable paper.

Lest Colonel Gagy's enemies should, as usual, insinuate that this article has emanated from himself, I enclose you my card.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

Quebec, 27th December, 1855.

* Case of Corrigan.

To the Editor of the Sun.

SIR,—The appointment of Col. Gugsy to the charge of the armed police, lately added to the force of this city, * has naturally caused a good deal of remark, and I am glad to see that the public journals generally regard it as a judicious appointment.

Whatever may be my opinion of the gallant Colonel in his public capacity, can be of no consequence to any one, and I may state that I have no intimacy with that gentleman. My object in addressing you on the present occasion, is to make known to the public through your columns a circumstance of which I was an eye witness, and which struck me at the time as so extraordinary an instance of courage, coolness, and presence of mind, that at the present time it ought to be made known, in order to set at rest the fears or doubts of those who may be laboring under either of these emotions in regard to this appointment.

You will doubtless recollect the circumstance of the young man Mason having been shot in an attack of Mr. Lafont's house some years ago. At the inquest, which took place in a hotel opposite the Court House, a guard of the 71st Regiment was drawn up in the lobby.† *A cry of "Fire"‡* was heard, the audience rushed pell mell to reach the street, the soldiers partook of the panic and were in confusion, and some rushed down stairs, fixed bayonets and all. The officers in charge were nowhere! I happened to be outside the door of the inquest room, and close to the soldiers. I remarked to the sergeant that there was no hurry, and to let the men take care of their bayonets. In the confusion, out stepped Col. Gugsy, who immediately called out in the sharp, clear tones which soldiers instinctively obey—"Soldiers! order arms; unfix bayonets; left face; march! and get down stairs quietly, my lads—plenty of time." And so there was, but had not some man of mettle done this, what would have been the consequence? Several people must have been wounded§ with the bayonets, as all were in a dreadful hurry to get out. You, and most of your

* During the ferment caused by the Gavazzi riots.

† This was upstairs.

‡ This fire evidently the work of an incendiary, began in the story just above that in which the Court sat, and was extending to the latter before it was noticed.

§ Or killed?

readers will remember the circumstance, but I do not think any civilian but myself was present at that particular scene in the drama, and assure you, much as I had heard of Col. Guky in former times, and seen during that stormy period, I never did see a greater proof of coolness and presence of mind than that occasion presented. I am perfectly aware that Col. Guky has enemies, and who has not? But let me tell you, Mr. Editor, it would have been well for Montreal if her rulers, as a body, had for the last few years possessed half the physical qualities of our new Police Magistrate.

A CITIZEN.

Montreal, 18th October, 1855.

Chronicle, 1st March, 1856.

THE PARLIAMENT.

From the Brockville Recorder.

Among the number ostracised in Lower Canada, we may mention the name of Col. Guky. It is not our intention to become Col. Guky's champion; we have sufficient matters appertaining to Upper Canada to call for our space, but love of fair play compels us to notice one honorable and brave action performed by the Colonel in a time of great danger and excitement, as tending to show his fitness for the command of the Militia in Lower Canada.

On the night the Parliament House of Montreal was burned, the writer of this was seated in the reporter's box, gathering fragments for the paper with which he was connected. Bells were ringing, and men, mad with excitement, were shouting outside the building; while showers of stones were driven through the windows. At length the shouting and yelling was heard on the stairs leading to the Assembly room, and in a few moments after a number of men made their way into the Assembly begrimed with dirt and sweat, and commenced tearing up the members' seats, and breaking everything in their way. The House was empty, but the Hon. Mr. Robinson entered the Assembly room just at the time, and smilingly remonstrated with the vagabonds. Col. Guky entered a minute or two after, and seeing one tall fellow about to lay dastard hands upon the mace, the symbol of royalty itself, the

Col. made one spring forward, caught the intruder by the throat, and hurled him outside the hall. Col. Guky was but one man. Had twelve of the members followed the noble example of the Colonel, when the riot first commenced, the Parliament House might have been saved, and the reproach of such a vandal action spared to Montreal.

Col. Guky has had a *hit* from the *Recorder* as well as from many papers in Upper Canada for his crusade against the Press, but we honor the bravery of a brave man, and now that he is in conflict with those who seek to crush him, justice demands that in the hour of his trial and affliction he should receive the aid his conduct on the occasion referred to fairly entitles him to.

We see by the *Quebec Gazette* that Col. Guky has addressed several letters to His Excellency Sir E. Head, on the injustice of slighting native Canadians. We think where native born Canadians can be found qualified they ought to have precedence, but not otherwise. The letters alluded to, however, are too long for our columns, and we must only content ourselves with the notice of the noble conduct of Col. Guky we have here given.

9th December, 1860.

*Extract from the "Canadian Political Portrait Gallery,"
published in most Canadian newspapers.*

COLONEL GUKY.

"He quarrelled with his family and he quarrelled with the Government, and he quarrelled with the press*, and he has always taken the aggressive or the defensive with skill, pertinacity and pluck."

* The first imputation is not a fit subject for public discussion—but the third grew out of the second. An Englishman is understood to have a freehold in his office and is not to be turned out to starve, unless he commits some offence. None could be imputed to the subject of this notice, and it became necessary to enact a Statute to abolish his office, re-enacting it with a slight modification. The Government then quarreled with him—not he with the Government, and his offence consisted in this that he was not silent when fatally injured. His quarrel with the press amounted to this, that when the journals subsidized by the Administration, to justify its act, libelled him, he vindicated himself and punished them.

"He was a member of the Parliament of Lower Canada, and fought the battle of British interests with a steadiness which earned him the undying hatred of the French. He has always been a Tory and pro-British to the back bone. In that he has never varied. He was active in suppressing the rebellion of 1837-38, and earned a reputation in both for humanity and bravery."

"Toward the latter part of Lord Metcalfe's reign, and in the commencement of Lord Cathcart's, when the Oregon question began to move us from our propriety, it was proposed to reorganize the militia, and Mr. Draper's administration thought this a capital opportunity to show their political power. Accordingly, under this pretext, they managed to get quit of Col. Bullock in the Upper Province and of Col. Gagy in the Lower, and after an ineffectual attempt to hook Sir Allan McNab, who was too big and too active a fish for them, secured the Parliamentary interest of Col. Macdonald and the national influence of Col. Taché.†"

Darnoc by Quebec, 8th Dec. 1867.

As they advance in years, men naturally desire and expect to increase their sphere of utility, as well as to make some provision for their offspring. I really, at one time, expected that our French rulers would have admitted that they owed me a debt of gratitude, but what was called my loyalty has excluded me from every career. It has driven me into solitude, but I did not promise to die immediately: and living, I even dared, in *Lower Canada*, to resist aggression. While so engaged I have been cruelly treated by the courts. This, however, is a part of the system, and my complaints to Parliament, specifying several cases of gross judicial misconduct, including habitual drunkenness, were summarily and contemptuously stifled.

It is the cowardice—the submission of the multitude which constitutes the power of tyrants, but in my seventy-second year I can no longer remain passive—nor can I, nor will I submit.—On the contrary, awakened, alarmed, impelled by recent events and their obviously inevitable effects, overcoming the prejudices of my education, undeterred by any difficulty or obstacle not absolutely insuperable, I shall do or attempt whatever in my judgment may tend to the permanent well being of my progeny.

A. GUGY.

† A French Canadian.

Hon^{ble} Joseph How.
Ka: den ge
Ottawa

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